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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

DISCUSSES CCP SPRING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SPRING CONSERVATION WORK ALMOST COMPLETED -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 13 May 50

Shanghai, 12 May (Hsin-hua) -- The response to the directive on the Spring Conservation Program is indicated by the following data.

The original estimate of dike work required on the Yangtze River in East China was 25 million metric fang [one metric fang equals 100 cubic meters]. By the middle of April, reports indicated that more than 18 million metric fang had been completed.

In North Anhwei, except for a section in Chiang-p'u Hsien, the project is practically finished. On the most difficult section of 83 kilometers, from Hui-k'ou to Ma-chia-chiang, 4,580,000 metric fang of the required 5 million have been finished. The work in South Kiangsu was practically finished by the end of April. In South Anhwei, except for three hsien in which the work is more than half finished, the project was practically all finished by early May.

On the Huai River, the work required on the main dikes, estimated at 6,350,000 metric fang, was about 80 percent completed by the end of April and will all be completed by the middle of May.

The first phase of the conservation work on the I Ho in North Kiangsu (except for a small portion) was finished by 10 May.

The final inspections, before the completion of the work, are now in progress on all of these projects. Reports indicate that while the work was carried on at double the speed of the winter effort, the quality of the work was better.

Under the stimulus of the slogan, "More grain for more earth moved," competition was keen and some teams averaged 6 metric fang dug per man per day.

The dike-construction program was carefully coordinated with the spring planting so that no important delay occurred in either project.

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CLASSIFICATION

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CONCLUSIONS

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EAST CHINA MPC ISSUES DIRECTIVE -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 5 Apr 50

The East China Military and Political Commission has issued a directive supporting the directive issued 21 March by the Administrative Council of the Central People's government. The introduction to the directive recounts the bad drainage conditions during and following the war years in the lower reaches of the Yellow, Huai, and Yangtze rivers. It also mentions the great efforts made since the CCP took over this area in 1948 and 1949, but points out a number of weaknesses that have appeared in the program so far. It then goes on to say:

The spring construction projects for the water-conservation program are among the most important tasks facing all the provinces to restore the economy and to alleviate the calamitous conditions of millions of people in this area.

Under no circumstances should the funds for the work be diverted to other purposes. Funds provided for payment of famine sufferers for work must not be used for famine relief alone. Authorities and engineering agencies responsible must see to it that all possible conservation projects are carried out. They must not be satisfied merely with impressive figures of work done, or the willingness of the people to do the work.

They must give scientific direction to the work, seriously study the causes of floods and have a real corrective program. At the same time, they must carry out the project economically and not blindly. Every effort should be made to strengthen the main and branch dikes of the Yangtze and Huai rivers and to impress upon the cadres and people that until the courses of these main streams are thoroughly protected, time and effort should not be wasted upon lesser projects of merely local importance.

Attention and study must be given by the Central Engineering Bureau of the Huai River and the Field Office of North Anhwei to the silting up of branches of that river and the responsibility assigned for the drainage of this area.

In Northern Kiangsu, attention must be given to meeting this year's assignment for conservation projects on the I Ho.

At the same time, study must be given to the various technical problems of the projects so as to avoid mistakes.

In Shantung, in addition to the necessary work of keeping the dikes of that river in condition, attention must be paid to conservation work on the Shu Chiang since this is necessary for flood control on the Shu, Wen, and I rivers and the promotion of transport.

Near the coast, where rivers are affected by tide action, engineering work should be carried out on the sea dikes.

These are the basic spring water-conservation projects for East China. Any changes considered in this program should be supported by very clear presentation of the alleged reasons for such changes.

The orders of the Ministry of Water Conservation particularly emphasize quality in the work, and warn against a tendency to stress quantity alone. The dike system of East China is very extensive and wind and wave damage are always considerable. All authorities must assume responsibility for meeting the established standard of quality. Every section of sea wall and every foot of earthen river dike must be the best possible so there can be no peril to agriculture from this source during summer and fall.

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The policy of employing labor as a means of relief must not be neglected, but, on the other hand, this cannot become the supreme motive for employing the labor of the masses. This was done in some areas during the winter effort, much to the detriment of the work. During the spring effort, this must not occur. The technical standard of the work must be maintained. The people must understand that they are working on projects for permanent relief from repetition of their calamities, and that this result is much more important than the temporary relief of their immediate distress.

It is very important, at present, that adequate inspection of the work be maintained by investigative units sent out in all directions and by conferences for reporting. On all the more important projects, all executive leaders must assume full responsibility for this inspection.

All successful work should be commended and the experience gained broadcast to other areas. Weaknesses and inequalities in the work should be dealt with and practical methods for correction set forth. In addition to the inspection teams employed by the East China authorities, reports should be required every 10 days from the provincial authorities.

The spring construction work must all be completed before the season of spring floods to guarantee freedom from calamity. The month and a half following this date is the most important period for the project. Any weakness in the spring work increases the possibility of trouble in summer or autumn. The problems posed for this project by the famine, spring planting, and spring rains, are legion, and unless the leaders are on the job in person to secure results, the perils of summer and autumn floods will be hard to avoid.

Consequently, all leaders are urged to give themselves wholeheartedly to the finishing of this task on time to avoid a repetition of the 1949 catastrophe.

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